

Remarks

Entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-12 are pending.

With the above amendments, applicants are clarifying that in one aspect of applicants' claimed invention, the access program layer is provided on one data processing node running an application client and another data processing node running an application server, and that access program layer presents a consistent security interface to the application client and the application server. Further, applicants have recited in new claim 11 the use of the access program layer by the application client and the application server to negotiate the common security mechanism to be used. Support for these amendments may be found throughout applicants' specification, including, for instance, in FIG. 1 and paragraphs 17-20. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Although clarifying amendments have been made above in an effort to advance prosecution of this application, applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims prior to amendment, if desired.

In the Office Action, dated December 8, 2005, it is stated that this Office Action is being provided in view of the Appeal Brief filed on 10/05/2005. To clarify, applicants respectfully submit that an Appeal Brief was not filed on 10/05/2005, but instead, it was a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review.

Substantively, in the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moreh et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0046391). Applicants respectfully, but most strenuously, traverse this rejection to any extent deemed applicable to the amended claims for the reasons herein.

In one aspect, applicants' invention is directed to providing security services in a clustered data processing environment. An access program layer is provided on at least two data processing nodes and this access program layer presents a consistent security interface to application clients and application servers running on the data processing nodes. This

consistent security interface represents a security mechanism common to at least one application client and at least one application server. Further, at least one adapter module is provided for the common security mechanism and this at least one adapter module maps one or more parameters of a security service implemented by the common security mechanism to the consistent security interface. This allows applications running on the data processing nodes to use different security mechanisms without being modified.

In one particular aspect, applicants claim a method for providing security services in a clustered data processing environment (e.g., independent claim 1). The method includes, for instance, providing an access program layer on one data processing node running an application client and another data processing node running an application server, the access program layer presenting a consistent security interface to the application client and the application server, the consistent security interface representing a security mechanism common to the application client and the application server, wherein the application client has one set of security mechanisms available thereto and the application server has another set of security mechanisms available thereto, and wherein at least one of the one set of security mechanisms and the another set of security mechanisms comprises a plurality of security mechanisms; and providing an adapter module for the common security mechanism, the adapter module mapping one or more parameters of a security service implemented by the common security mechanism to the consistent security interface, whereby applications running on the one data processing node and the another data processing node do not require modification to use different security mechanisms. Thus, in this aspect of applicants' claimed invention, an access program layer is provided on multiple data processing nodes running an application client and an application server. This layer presents a consistent security interface to the application client and the application server running on those nodes. This is very different from the teachings of Moreh.

In Moreh, a subject is to authenticate itself to a server application. When this is to occur, a client application associated with the subject interacts with an authentication agent to obtain an authentication response to deliver to the server application. "A successful interaction between the client 22 and the authentication agent 24 produces information about exactly one authentication mechanism 32 for the client 22 to use" (Moreh, page 3, paragraph

0044, lines 7-9). Thus, in Moreh, the client application is the one to interact with the authentication agent. The server application has no such interaction. This is very different from applicants' claimed invention.

In contrast to Moreh, in applicants' claimed invention, the access program layer is provided to both the application server and the application client, and not just to the application client, as recited in Moreh. In applicants' claimed invention, the access program layer is provided to both the application client and the application server such that a consistent security interface is provided to both. This consistent security interface represents a security mechanism common to the application client and the application server. In Moreh, there is no such discussion of a security mechanism that is common to both the application client and the application server, since the server application in Moreh need not interact with the authentication agent. It is only the client that interacts with the authentication agent and produces information about the authentication mechanism for that client to use (see, e.g., Moreh page 3, paragraph 44, lines 8-11).

Since in Moreh there is no description, teaching or suggestion of providing an access program layer to both the client and server applications to present a consistent security interface to both the client and the server applications, and since there is no discussion in Moreh of a security mechanism common to both the client and server applications, Moreh fails to describe, teach or suggest one or more aspects of applicants' claimed invention. For example, Moreh fails to describe, teach or suggest an access program layer on one data processing node running an application client and another data processing node running an application server, the access program layer presenting a consistent security interface to the application client and the application server. As a further example, Moreh fails to describe, teach or suggest a security mechanism common to both the application client and the application server, as claimed by applicants. For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that Moreh does not anticipate applicants' claimed invention. Thus, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for independent claims 1, 9 and 10.

Further, the claims that depend therefrom are patentable for the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own additional features. For example, new

dependent claim 11 further describes using the access program layer by the application client and the application server to determine one or more security mechanisms that are common to the application client and the application server and to negotiate between themselves which security mechanism of those one or more common security mechanisms is to be used as the common security mechanism. This is not described, taught or suggested in Moreh.

Moreh fails to describe, teach or suggest at the very least an application server using an access program layer to negotiate with an application client a common security mechanism to be used. In Moreh, only the client application deals with the authentication agent, not the server. There is no negotiation between the client and server in Moreh of a common security mechanism. This is missing from Moreh. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that this claim is also patentable over Moreh.

For all of the above reasons, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for all claims pending in this application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with applicants' attorney, please contact applicants' attorney at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Blanche E. Schiller

Blanche E. Schiller

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No.: 35,670

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HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.

5 Columbia Circle

Albany, New York 12203-5160

Telephone: (518) 452-5600

Facsimile: (518) 452-5579